

From: [HOPE Bruce](#)
To: [Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Subject: RE: Food Web Model Fish Tissue Requirements
Date: 02/13/2006 10:41 AM

Eric,

I did speak to Bob about composites vs. individual samples. While it would be nice to have individual samples so we could better understand size-residue relationships and other esoterica, composite sampling will produce good estimates of the mean that are readily comparable with the mean estimates produced by the food web model. I think it would be better to direct resources toward getting a composite sample from as many segments (34 at the moment) as possible rather than knowing the details of individual fish in only a few segments.

Bruce

-----Original Message-----

From: Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov
[mailto:Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2006 10:20 AM
To: HOPE Bruce
Subject: Food Web Model Fish Tissue Requirements

Bruce, at my urging, we are revisiting the issue of whether individual fish tissue samples are required to run the food web model and what additional resolution we get in the model results through the analysis of individual fish. It is my understanding that you had a conversation about this topic with Bob Gensemer the week before last. My concerns with the analysis of individual fish are two-fold: 1) The number of individual fish is significant. During our scoping exercise, we identified 59 individual fish tissue analyses (16 crappie, 15, smallmouth bass, 12 northern pikeminnow, 2 sculpin and 14 largescale sucker). 2) Round 1 fish tissue focused entirely on composites. I am totally supportive of collecting additional composite data to support the foodweb model as well as other site needs and from a temporal standpoint I would rather compare composites with composites.

That said, if there is a compelling need to look at individuals to get a better understanding of the size/contaminant level relationship or get information about variability, I could support this effort. However, I would like to better understand the tradeoffs - i.e., what is the downside associated with not getting the individual samples and getting additional composites instead.

Let me know what you think. Are you available to discuss this sometime this week?

Thanks, Eric